

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 26, 2007, and the Advisory Action of April 17, 2007, which have been reviewed and carefully considered.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-8 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 1-8 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 7-8 are allowed and that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten

in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 7-8 are allowed and that claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, allowance of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,777,404 (Kiesel). Further, claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,015,165 (Hardies) in view of Kiesel. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are patentable over Kiesel and Hardies for at least the following reasons.

As correctly noted by the Examiner of page 3 of the Final Office Action, Hardies does not teach or suggest means for protection against oxidation are chosen from the group of materials formed by chromium-manganese, chromium-cobalt, chromium-iron, and chromium-boron alloys. Kiesel is cited in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies in Hardies.

Kiesel discloses a lamp having contact pins 8, 9 made of iron-

nickel-chromium alloy. It is respectfully submitted that Kiesel, Hardies, and combination thereof, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 which, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided) :

wherein the means for protection against oxidation are chosen from the group of materials formed by chromium-manganese, chromium-cobalt, and chromium-boron alloys.

Rather, Kiesel discloses a lamp having contact pins 8, 9 made of iron-nickel-chromium alloy. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1 as well as its individually patentable elements, namely, that the means for protection against oxidation is a coating.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due beyond the fee for filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to be charged to the credit card as noted by the enclosed authorization. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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Enclosure: New Abstract

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101